

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are all the claims pending in the application.

Art Rejections

1. Claims 11-19, 24, 28-29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fujita et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,055,361 ("Fujita") and Fujiyama et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,336,141 ("Fujiyama"). Claim 11 is the independent claim.

The Examiner acknowledges that Fujita fails to disclose at least the underlined limitations of independent claim 11:

print job data processing means, contained in the printer, for interpreting the print job data, detecting the reply information from the print job data, and returning a process state of the print job data based on the reply information to a predetermined destination and which is external to the printer,

wherein said predetermined destination is included in intrinsic data of said reply information;

To fulfil this deficiency, the Examiner points to Figures 10-11 and column 11, lines 20-29 of Fujiyama. Fujiyama is directed to a network system where two computers belonging to different networks communicate with each other via multiple relay computers. Specifically, the multiple relay computers work in cooperation with one another so that logs, which are dispersively recorded in each relay computer, can be collectively managed by a single management apparatus.

Fujiyama does disclose sending a request packet to a relay computer wherein the log monitor waits for a reply packet to be transmitted back from a relay computer having the results pertaining to the request. Nevertheless, the recitation still does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed subject matter. As shown in Figure 5, a request 52 is sent from the relay computer 13A having a central log monitor agent 19A, which is connected to the log message format database

and file, to a log monitor agent 19B/C on a relay computer 13B/C. Upon processing the request the log monitor agents 19B/C transmit a reply back to the log monitor agent 19A on relay computer 13A.

The central relay computer 13A, which houses the log message format database and file, transmits the requests to all other relay computers 13B/C. This request packet is shown in Fig 10. As illustrated, the request packet 101 includes a request information number 102, a search condition number 103, a search condition item number 104 and condition data 105. What the request packet 101 does not include is reply information nor does the request packet include a predetermined destination within intrinsic data of the reply information. Rather, the request packet 101 simply identifies a request information number, which corresponds to the desired contents set by the network administrator initiating the log check instruction (See Col. 10, lines 44-65 and Col. 11, 1-11)¹. In other words, the request information number 102 of the request packet 101 is not reply information let alone a predetermined destination included as intrinsic data of the reply information.

Fujiyama simply discloses a first computer transmitting a request to a second computer. The request packet 102 does not include reply information for returning a process state. As opposed to independent claim 11, the reply packet in Fujiyama can only be transmitted back to

¹ Column 11, lines 1-5, clearly states that the request information number field 102 corresponds to the request information set in a request information column 91. This request information column 91 is shown in Figure 9 and described at Column 10, lines 42-55. Specifically, the network administrator inputs a log-check instruction by requesting information and indicates the content which is desired to be checked in column 91. As an example, Fujiyama states that "in order to know a user who accessed on August 8, 1996 by telnet, the network administrator sets the "user ID on a request information column 91."

the source that originated the request packet 102 and thus cannot be transmitted to a predetermined destination which may or may not be the source based on intrinsic data in the reply information.

Applicant respectfully submits that Fujiyama, like Fujita, fails to disclose, teach or suggest detecting reply information from print job data wherein a predetermined destination is included in the intrinsic data of the reply information. Without at least such a suggestion, one would not have been (and could not have been) motivated to combine the printer control, as taught in Fujita, with the collective managing dispersive log, as disclosed in Fujiyama, to produce the claimed subject matter. Because there can be found in Fujiyama no teaching or suggestion that meets the above identified limitations, the combination of Fujita and Fujiyama cannot reasonably be said to render obvious the claimed subject matter. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the § 103(a) rejection from independent claim 11 and the claims that depend therefrom.

2. Claims 1-10, 20-23, 25-27 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Fujita, Fujiyama and McCormick et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,706,411 ("McCormick"). Claims 1, 20, 23 and 24 are all independent claims.

Fujita and Fujiyama fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least the below recited limitations of independent claims 1, 20, 23 and 24:

print job processing means, contained in the printer,
for interpreting the print job data, detecting the
reply information from the print job data, and
returning a process state of the print job data based
on reply information to a predetermined destination
which is external to the printer,

wherein said predetermined destination is included
in intrinsic data of said reply information;

Because the above recited limitation is similar to the limitation included in independent claim 11 which is discussed at length above, Applicant incorporates herein the arguments presented with respect to Fujita and Fujiyama. As such, because Fujita and Fujiyama fail to disclose at least the above limitation, the Examiner must rely on McCormick in order to fulfill the deficiencies of Fujita and Fujiyama.

McCormick is directed to a computer system having a visual display which informs the user as to the status of an attached printer. The information displayed on the computer concerning the mechanical status of the printer includes: cover open, paper out, wrong paper load and paper jam. Absent from McCormick is any teaching or suggestion of locating intrinsic data within the reply information that indicates to which destination (or computer) the job processing state information should be sent.

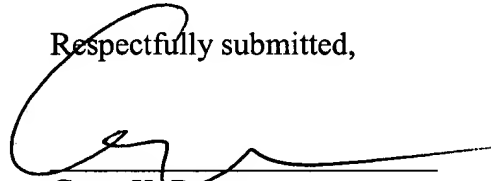
Without at least such a suggestion, one would not have been (and could not have been) motivated to combine the printer control, as taught in Fujita, and with the collective managing dispersive log, as disclosed in Fujiyama, with the printer status user interface, as disclosed in McCormick, to produce the claimed subject matter. Because there can be found in McCormick no teaching or suggestion that meets the above identified limitations, the combination of Fujita, Fujiyama and McCormick cannot reasonably be said to render obvious the claimed subject matter. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the § 103(a) rejection from independent claim 1, 20, 23 and 24 and the claims that depend therefrom.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 289,601

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Grant K. Rowan
Registration No. 41,278

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: December 13, 2002